A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 7. 1707.

I Am now on the ſo much wiſh'd for Argument of National Diſcouragement, and here I have Hinted, that 'tis not my Opinion only, that there is no need to be Diſcourag'd and Dejected, but that really we are not, generally ſpeaking, under any ſuch thing as Diſcouragements or Dejections, as our Enemies endeavour to have us be, and endeavour to perſwade the World we are.

I muſt own it is very uſeful to their Deſign, to have the World believe, that the Confederates are Deſpairing, that *England* in particular is ſo; when once the Confederates begin to be Diſcourag'd, they have but too much Reaſon to expect their Diſſolution; when a Conjoin'd Force faints they always ſeparate; the Strength of the Confederates conſiſts in the Conjunction of Parts, whenever thoſe Parts fall off from one another, they cannot fail to be undone. If any Part ſhould ſink and be diſcourag'd, eſpecially a conſiderable Part as *England* is, the reſt immediately ſhift for themſelves—And what then can be of more uſe to the Enemies of this Confederacy, than to have ſome of the conſiderable Branches of it be diſcourag'd, and by Conſequence divided from the reſt?

Nor is this Project of National Diſcouragement without its uſes at Home too, and much Wicked Pains is taken to Calculate it for that purpoſe; We have a Parliament now approaching, and 'tis not a little uſeful to the Service of our *Nation Diſturbers*, the *High-Flyers*, to have ſomething to talk Melancholy upon, and to look DISMALLY at.

It is not their Pleaſure and Delight only, but 'tis for the particular Service of their Party,

Party, to have Diſaſters and Diſappointments happen upon our Publick Affairs, which they have various Methods of Improving, this way to diſcourage the People, and make Taxes come heavy; that way to Reproach Inſtruments; and this foments Jealouſies of Miſmanagement, a third way to Rail at Meaſures, and that prompts the moſt delicious Guſt of Inſulting the Miniſtry.

Has any Capital Diſappointment happened ſince the Revolution without this uſe made of it? Look back upon the long wiſe Speeches of a known Party, and not a *Place-Hunting Member*, or an off-caſt Miniſter, not a Superannuated Courtier, or a decay'd Apoſtate to his Party, ever makes a long Speech, but the way-ward Harangue enumerates our Loſſes, exaggerates our Diſaſters, Sighs, Groans, and Sings *Dirge's* over our good Fortune as Dying and Expiring—And what is the End,

All the Strife is plainly to be ſeen,
To get ſome Men put out, and ſome put in.

All the Application turns upon the ſame Hinge, Miſmanagement, ill Conduct, and what's next? —Put us in, we'll do it better,

Fools out of Favour Rail at K...s in Place,
And Men are always Honeſt in Diſgrace.

I confeſs, there is a great deal in this that is very melancholy, becauſe 'tis Miſchievous; but as we thank GOD the dangerous Part of it is not ſo much to be apprehended now as uſually, I cannot but take a little Breath and talk of the merry part of it; and one of my firſt Obſervations on it, is, how handſomely and Comically our Complainers are ſorted, and on what well proportioned Meaſures our Diſcouragers of the People proceed.

1. The Parſons particularly they direct the Courtiers, and take upon them to enquire nicely into their Management, Correct their Errors, and determine how and which way they have acted, might have acted, and ought to have acted, and this you know is particularly wellorder'd, and moſt ſuitable to their Function, becauſe by the Scripture Inſtructions given to the Clergy, they are moſt eminently prepar'd for medling with Matters of State, and the Government of a Nation is never ſo well manag'd and directed, as when in the Hands of the Sons of *Levi*, whoſe being the beſt States-men is ſuch a neceſſary Relative of their Function.

2. Then we have the Lawyers particularly examining the Conduct of the Army, Correcting, the Generals, and *I— W— D—* and *P—* never fail to make Satyrs upon the ill Conduct of our Generals, and long Speeches on the Probabilities and Poſſibilities of the ſeveral Expeditions; what was done, what ſhould have been done, and what ſhould have been omitted, with the *How's* and *Why's*, *Pro* and *Con*— The Reaſon is plain, War and Law having ſo near a Correſpondence, how is it poſſible, but he that applies himſelf to the Law ſhould come out quallified to be an Attorney-General, or a Lieutenant-General? *Ubi fata vocant*, juſt as Chance ſhould determine, and though 'tis ten to one he is fit for neither, as a late Experiment has made good, to which there hangs a Tale—Yet we muſt allow the Men of the Law are Men of War, and have ſomething in them Synonymous to a Soldier; particularly that tho' they are not raiſed by the ſame Steps, they may be Ruin'd by the ſame Method, for Peace would undue them all.

3. Then we have the Country Gentlemen exclaiming about Trade, and the honeſt Clowns, eſpecially the *Inlanders*, they examine the Stations of our Convoys, the Ill-Management of the Navy, the Ruin of our Colonies and Plantations, and the Danger of the *French* ſeizing the reſt of our Iſlands, as they did St. *Chriſtophers* and *Nevis*; and this they do with ſo much Accuracy, and ſuch Propriety, that 'tis really very wonderful, Her Majeſty did not make Sir ——— one of the Comiſſioners of Trade; who, in one of his late Learned Diſcourſes among his Neighbour Juſtices, was ſo zealous for the publick Good, and ſo careful of Trade, that he wonder'd, Her Majeſty did not raiſe an Army in *New-England*, where he ſaid there were Men enough, and cauſe them to

to march immediately to *Barbadoes* and *Jamaica*, to secure those Countries from the Insults of the *French*.

I confess, it has been one of the great Misfortunes of this Nation, that the several Persons entrusted in the respective Parts of the War, have not been always chosen of Men particularly qualify'd for the Part in which they were employ'd, by which means Want of Judgment may make things miscarry, where Want of Honesty is no Part of the Charge.

No doubt, the QUEEN had met with much better Success in the Conduct of Her Affairs these late Years, if it had been Her Majesty's good Fortune to have made better Choice of Managers; but who can help the Nation's Fate.

Had the Reverend Mr. *S———rel* been made Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, Mr. *B...* Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir *J... P...* Chair-man of the Committee of Elections, we had never fallen under the Tyranny of Moderation, nor lost that Blessed Hopes, honest Men had entertain'd of dividing us by Tacking the Occasional Bill.

Had *G——don* been made Admiral, *S———gh* General, and *G———l* Secretary of State; had Sir *E— S—* been made Lord Treasurer, and the Vine-Club nam'd the Privy-Council; no Question, but things had been better manag'd, and the Nation been long ago deliver'd from this long and chargeable War, *The shortest Way*.

But *Sathan* hindred! *Hinc illæ Lacrymæ*. This has not been our Fortune, and no Wonder the Nation, so far as these honest Gentlemen may be call'd the Nation, are under Dejections and Discouragements; and how to raise their Spirits is the next Enquiry.

MISCELLANEA.

BEing at this present at some Distance from you, Gentlemen News-Writers, you may be sure, your Extraordinaries only will receive their due Acknowledgment, small Matters cannot be heard so far, but a Capital Paragraph sounds at Distance—And this I presume, the Authors of the *English-Post* consider'd when to command our just Observations, they put the World in Mind of their Merit by this remarkable Account, as I have it by the Post.

English-Post of *Friday*, *June* 20. N°. 1045.

" *Brussels*, *June*, 2. Two Days ago a " a Party of 200 *Dutch* Horses detach'd " from *Menin*, attack'd 170 *French* Troop- " ers near *Irn-Court*, killing 140, taking 37 " Prisoners, and 53 Horses.

This has indeed been a most bloody Action, as ever I heard happen'd between Horses and Men, and besides there are a great many very remarkable things to be observ'd in it; First, that the *Dutch* Horses should attack the *French* Troopers—It is a Peice of very good News, I assure you; for if the *French* are grown such Scoundrels, as that our Horses can beat them, we may make a good Hand of the War, and save a great many brave Fellows, that otherwise will be knock'd on the Head every Day.

But after all, it was a Horse Fight, that is the Truth of it, and the Beasts were very barbarous to kill and take 177 out of 170: Indeed this was terrible Work, and I would advise the *French* to fight no more with *Dutch* Horses, if they use them thus.

I hope, the Gentlemen of the *English-Post* will not take this Note ill, for perhaps it may be but a Translation——And it cannot but be just, if the *French* write Nonsence, that we should translate it into *English* Nonsence too, according to the *Courant* Example of your Brethren.

Another Gentleman, whose Name I spare, who tell us, that the Malecontents of *Hungaria* lye ready near *Odenburgh* in *Hungaria*, with a Body of 8000 Horse and 3000 Foot, with a Design to make an Incursion into *Asturias*. This worthy Auth r, the

the next time he talks of thoſe things, which he underſtands ſo little, would do well to look into his Geographical Dictionary, and when he finds there, that the *Aſturias* is in *Spain*, and the Troops, he talks of, are in *Hungaria*, he would be very kind to tell the World, how they ſhall make this famous Incurſion, and above all, how they ſhall get back again?

But if he finds this too great a Difficulty, *as no doubt he will*, he may do as well, by acknowledging he would have ſaid *Auſtria*, inſtead of *Aſturias*, if he had known one from t'other.

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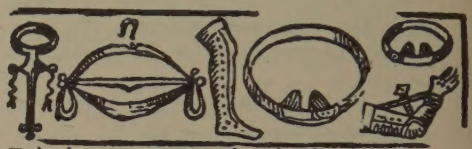
††† *She lives at the Golden Ball in Hand Court, over againſt great Turnſtile in Holborn.*



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